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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/647,889 08/25/2003 Daniel Joseph Brunelle 122897-1 3526 7590 12/08/2004 **EXAMINER** General Electric Company TRUONG, DUC CRD Patent Docket Rm 4A59 Bldg. K-1 ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER P.O. Box 8 Schenectady, NY 12301

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s) App	r					(//	
Examiner Due Truong			Applica	tion No.	Applicant(s)	Ψ	
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Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed November 17, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The amendment submitted by Applicant does not overcome the rejection made by Examiner in the last Office action.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Schmidhauser'974.

The rejection is maintained for the reasons as stated in the last Office action and for the following reasons:

Note that the claims have been amended to include the characteristics such as the alkali metal salt comprising less than about 50 ppm water and the bis(N-(chlorophthalimido) aromatic compound and the phase transfer catalyst should be predried. Said conditions illustrate the unexpected result of the importance of the initial rate of reaction and the MW of the product polymers.

Note that in the Example 6 of the reference, a bisphenol A disodium salt was prepared from bisphenol A under conditions such as "refluxing at such a rate that water and methanol distilled out of the flask (to eliminate water from the system), producing the disodium salt in finely particulate form. The slurry was heated under reflux to collect water in a Dean Stark trap (to eliminate the water left over from the system), and then transferred to a dry box in which the salt was removed by filtration, placed in a flask and vacuum dried at 150 C for 16 hours (see col. 5, Example 6, lines 34-50). In this conditions, the alkali metal salt comprising no water or at least less than about 50 ppm water, as in the amended claim.

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Note also that the amended claim further require that the bis(N-chlorophthalimido) aromatic compound and the phase transfer catalyst must be predried in order for the reaction mixture comprising the same contains at most about 20 ppm by weight of water.

The Examples 1-4 and 6 of the reference disclose different steps of the process to form the products. However, they have the common ground of refluxing, distilling, heating the mixture a couple of times to eliminate water out of the systems. Based on these steps of the process, the claimed characteristics "the reaction mixture comprising the same contains at most about 20 ppm by weight of water" must be considered inherent in the prior art

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-1081. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DUCTRUONG
DIMARY EXAMINER
